

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application. The Office Action imposed a restriction requirement that restricted the claims into 2 groups, as recited below.

Group I:      Claims 1-21, drawn to a method of making a titanium oxide coating;

Group I is further restricted as follows:

    Group 1a, claim 2, drawn to the step of heating;

    Group 1b, claims 3-7, drawn to the material and type of implant;

    Group 1c, claims 8-12 and 14-21, drawn to the particles of step (a)

        and the particulars of the ingredients in step (a) wherein z

    Groups 1a-1c are related processes.

Group II:      Claims 22-29, drawn to the product and use of an implant having a titanium oxide coating.

Group II is further restricted as follows:

    Group IIa, claims 23 and 25-28, drawn to the particulars of metallic ions;

    Group IIb, claim 24, drawn to the particulars of the coating thickness wherein Groups IIa and IIb are related products

As required in response to the Office Action, Applicant elects Group II (claims 22-29). Applicants further elect Group IIa as the species. The claims encompassing the elected invention, as restricted, are claims 23 and 25-28. Applicants assert, however, that claim 24 is within the elected species at least to the extent that it is dependent from claim 23. Applicants further understand that claim 29 will be examined along with Group IIa, as stated in the Office Action at page 3.

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**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. As such, they respectfully request the Office to promptly issue a notice of allowance following the submission of such further documentation. Of course, if any issue remains that can be dealt with absent a formal action and response thereto, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his earliest convenience so that the same may be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

/David W. Maher/  
David W. Maher  
Registration No. 40,077

BIOTECHNOLOGY LAW GROUP  
Customer Number 65159  
(858) 228-7289 (tel)  
(858) 350-9691 (fax)